

In The Matter Of:
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 475
October 24, 2017

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 475

Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless
Application for a Certificate of Environmental
Compatibility and Public Need for the
construction, maintenance, and operation of a
telecommunications facility located adjacent to
the maintenance building at the Skungamaug Golf
Course, south of Folly Lane, at Coventry Tax
Assessor's Map 006, Block 0026, Lot 0101,
Coventry, Connecticut.

Public Hearing held at the Coventry Town
Hall, Town Hall Annex, 1712 Main Street, Coventry,
Connecticut, on Tuesday, October 24, 2017,
beginning at 2:59 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

SENATOR JAMES J. MURPHY, JR., Vice
Chairman

1 A p p e a r a n c e s :

2

3 Council Members:

4 ROBERT HANNON

5 MICHAEL HARDER

6 DR. MICHAEL W. KLEMENS

7 DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.

8 ROBERT SILVESTRI

9

10 Council Staff:

11 MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.

12 Executive Director and

13 Staff Attorney

14

15 ROBERT MERCIER

16 Siting Analyst

17

18 For the Applicant:

19 ROBINSON & COLE LLP

20 280 Trumbull Street

21 Hartford, Connecticut 06133-3597

22 BY: KENNETH C. BALDWIN, ESQ.

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1 A p p e a r a n c e s (Cont'd):

2

3 Also present: James McLoughlin, Town of
4 Coventry Fire/EMS Administrator and
5 Emergency Management Director

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7 DOUGLAS A. RACICOT, Town of
8 Coventry Operations Director

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1 SENATOR MURPHY: Ladies and gentlemen,
2 I'm going to open up this meeting of the
3 Connecticut Siting Council on Tuesday, October the
4 24th, 2017, at 3 p.m. My name is James J. Murphy,
5 Jr., and I'm vice chairman of the Siting Council.

6 Other members of the Council here with
7 us today are Robert Hannon, designee for
8 Commissioner Robert Klee of the Department of
9 Energy and Environmental Protection; Robert
10 Silvestri; Dr. Michael W. Klemens; Michael Harder;
11 and Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

12 Members of the staff with us today are
13 Melanie Bachman, our executive director, staff
14 attorney; and Robert Mercier, our siting analyst
15 for this docket.

16 This hearing is held pursuant to the
17 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
18 Statutes and the Uniform Administrative Procedure
19 Act upon the application from Cellco Partnership
20 d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a Certificate of
21 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for
22 the construction, maintenance, and operation of a
23 telecommunications facility located adjacent to
24 the maintenance building at the Skungamaug Golf
25 Course, south of Folly Lane, in Coventry,

1 Connecticut. This application was received by the
2 Council on June the 28th, 2017.

3 As a reminder to all, off the record
4 communications with a member of the Council or a
5 member of the Council's staff upon the merits of
6 this application is prohibited by law.

7 The parties to this proceeding is as
8 follows: The applicant is Cellco Partnership d/b/a
9 Verizon Wireless. It's represented by Kenneth C.
10 Baldwin, Esquire, of Robinson & Cole LLP.

11 We will proceed in accordance with the
12 prepared agenda, copies of which are available. I
13 believe they're on the back table back there.
14 Also available here are the Council's Citizens
15 Guide to Siting Council Procedures.

16 At the end of this afternoon
17 evidentiary session, we will recess and resume
18 again at 7 for a public comment session. The 7
19 p.m. public comment session will be reserved for
20 the public to make brief oral arguments into the
21 record.

22 I wish to note for those who are here,
23 and for the benefit of your friends and neighbors
24 who are unable to join us for the public comment
25 session, that you or they may send written

1 comments to the Council within 30 days of the date
2 hereof, and such written statements will be given
3 the same weight as if spoken at the hearing this
4 evening.

5 A verbatim transcript will be made of
6 this hearing and deposited with the Town Clerk's
7 Office in Coventry for the convenience of the
8 public.

9 Is there any public official here who
10 would like to make a comment on this application?

11 (No response.)

12 SENATOR MURPHY: Seeing no one
13 indicating that --

14 JAMES McLOUGHLIN: Excuse me. On
15 behalf of the Town of Coventry, I'm the fire
16 administrator. My name is James McLoughlin. I
17 was hired just in August, so I'm relatively new in
18 my position, and the meeting was just brought to
19 my attention approximately ten minutes ago.

20 So with respect to the evidentiary
21 hearing that's going to be discussed today, I also
22 wanted to just mention the fact that, while it's
23 just been brought to my attention, I'd like an
24 opportunity to at least kind of review some of the
25 offerings so that we may need a little bit more

1 time to chime in. We're represented by the
2 Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Association, which
3 provides our dispatch services, and they have use
4 of radio cell towers all throughout the county,
5 and may also have an interest in speaking or
6 making some comments with respect to the proposal.

7 SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you. Verizon
8 has its panel with so-called experts here, and I'm
9 sure they'll have no problem agreeing to have a
10 chat with you after and provide you answers to any
11 questions you may have today and in the future.
12 You're certainly welcome to stay for the hearing
13 as well.

14 MR. McLOUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you. I
15 just didn't know if this was the appropriate time,
16 or I should wait until later on. "Public
17 official" just came to my attention.

18 SENATOR MURPHY: Very often it's now or
19 tonight. But if you're in the learning mode,
20 maybe you'd rather talk to these gentlemen in the
21 interim and maybe have something to say for us
22 tonight, or maybe not. I'll leave that to you and
23 their experts.

24 MR. McLOUGHLIN: Thank you very much.

25 SENATOR MURPHY: But thank you for your

1 comments.

2 MR. McLOUGHLIN: Certainly.

3 SENATOR MURPHY: Under administrative
4 notice, I wish to call your attention to those
5 items shown on the hearing program marked as Roman
6 numeral I.D., Items 1 through and including 69.

7 Does the applicant have any objection
8 to the items that the Council has administratively
9 noticed?

10 MR. BALDWIN: No objection, Senator
11 Murphy.

12 SENATOR MURPHY: Accordingly, the
13 Council hereby administratively notices these
14 existing documents, statements and comments as
15 they appear on our program.

16 Will the applicant please present your
17 witness panel for the purposes of taking the oath
18 and then to be cross-examined?

19 MR. BALDWIN: Certainly, Senator.

20 SENATOR MURPHY: Attorney Baldwin.

21 MR. BALDWIN: Good afternoon, Senator
22 Murphy, members of the Council. Kenneth Baldwin
23 with Robinson & Cole on behalf of the applicant,
24 Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon
25 Wireless. Our witness panel includes to my far

1 left Dean Gustafson. Mr. Gustafson is a senior
2 wetland scientist and professional soil scientist
3 with All-Points Technology Corporation. To my
4 immediate left is Mike Libertine, director of
5 siting and permitting for All-Points Technology.
6 To my right is Mr. Tony Befera. Mr. Befera is the
7 manager of real estate and project implementation
8 for Verizon Wireless. Next to Mr. Befera is Doug
9 Roberts with Hudson Design Group, the project
10 engineers. Next is Ray Luke Paradis, a radio
11 frequency engineer with Verizon Wireless. And our
12 new witness, a new face to the Council, I'd like
13 to introduce Kelly Lemay, a radio frequency design
14 engineer with Verizon Wireless. And Kelly will be
15 joining us in future dockets, so we thought we'd
16 indoctrinate her tonight and get her familiar with
17 the Council and the Council with her. So we
18 welcome her to our panel.

19 Senator, we have seven exhibits listed
20 in the hearing program under Roman II, Subsection
21 B, Items 1 through 7. We actually submitted a
22 supplement to the exhibit listed as Exhibit 5,
23 which is the applicant's response to Interrogatory
24 Number 5, dated September 21, 2017. We had
25 referenced an attachment in that response and

1 forgot to give you the attachment. So now as you
2 have the attachment, it is a drive test map. And
3 so I apologize for that oversight, but that is
4 also a part of -- and should be included as a part
5 of Applicant's Exhibit 5. And I offer those
6 exhibits at this point for identification
7 purposes, subject to verification by our witness
8 panel.

9 SENATOR MURPHY: Okay.

10 MR. BALDWIN: If we could verify those
11 exhibits for our panel. And I'll ask our panel,
12 did you prepare or assist in the preparation of
13 the --

14 SENATOR MURPHY: Let's swear them in
15 first. Small technical problem. Please rise.

16 D E A N G U S T A F S O N,
17 M I C H A E L L I B E R T I N E,
18 A N T H O N Y B E F E R A,
19 D O U G L A S J. R O B E R T S,
20 R A Y L U K E P A R A D I S,
21 K E L L Y M. L E M A Y,

22 called as witnesses, being first duly sworn
23 by Ms. Bachman, were examined and testified
24 on their oaths as follows:

25 MS. BACHMAN: Thank you.

1 MR. BALDWIN: Sorry, Senator. I guess
2 in 27 years of experience, you forget a few things
3 every once in a while.

4 SENATOR MURPHY: Sometimes those things
5 come with age. I know quite well.

6 (Laughter.)

7 DIRECT EXAMINATION

8 MR. BALDWIN: Again, for our witness
9 panel to verify those exhibits, I'll ask them to
10 respond to the following questions: Did you
11 prepare or assist in the preparation of the
12 exhibits listed in the hearing program under Roman
13 II, Subsection B, Items 1 through 7, including the
14 supplemental attachment to Exhibit 5?

15 Mr. Gustafson?

16 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.

17 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Libertine?

18 THE WITNESS (Libertine): Yes.

19 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Befera?

20 THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes.

21 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Roberts?

22 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Yes.

23 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Paradis?

24 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Yes.

25 MR. BALDWIN: Ms. Lemay?

1 THE WITNESS (Lemay): Yes.

2 MR. BALDWIN: Do you have any
3 corrections, modifications, or amendments to offer
4 to any of those exhibits at this time?

5 Mr. Gustafson?

6 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): No.

7 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Libertine?

8 THE WITNESS (Libertine): I do have one
9 correction I'd like to point out. In Exhibit 4,
10 which is applicant's responses to the Council's
11 interrogatories, dated September 13, 2017, the
12 response to Question Number 13 on page 6 does have
13 an incorrect reference to the site in the sixth
14 line that should read "including areas where the
15 Coventry Northwest facility compound and gravel
16 access drive upgrades are proposed." And I
17 apologize that we had an incorrect reference to
18 another site in that paragraph.

19 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Befera?

20 THE WITNESS (Befera): No.

21 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Roberts?

22 THE WITNESS (Roberts): No.

23 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Paradis?

24 THE WITNESS (Paradis): No.

25 MR. BALDWIN: Ms. Lemay?

1 THE WITNESS (Lemay): No.

2 MR. BALDWIN: And with those
3 corrections or modifications, is the information
4 contained in those exhibits true and accurate to
5 the best of your knowledge?

6 Mr. Gustafson?

7 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.

8 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Libertine?

9 THE WITNESS (Libertine): Yes.

10 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Befera?

11 THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes.

12 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Roberts?

13 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Yes.

14 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Paradis?

15 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Yes.

16 MR. BALDWIN: Ms. Lemay?

17 THE WITNESS (Lemay): Yes.

18 MR. BALDWIN: And do you adopt the
19 information in those exhibits as your testimony in
20 this proceeding?

21 Mr. Gustafson?

22 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): I do.

23 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Libertine?

24 THE WITNESS (Libertine): Yes, I do.

25 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Befera?

1 THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes.

2 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Roberts?

3 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Yes.

4 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Paradis?

5 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Yes.

6 MR. BALDWIN: Ms. Lemay?

7 THE WITNESS (Lemay): Yes.

8 MR. BALDWIN: Senator, I offer them as
9 full exhibits.

10 SENATOR MURPHY: They may be entered as
11 full exhibits.

12 (Applicant's Exhibits II-B-1 through
13 II-B-7: Received in evidence - described in
14 index.)

15 SENATOR MURPHY: Now we'll start the
16 cross-examination of the panel by the staff siting
17 analyst, Mr. Mercier.

18 MR. MERCIER: Thank you.

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION

20 MR. MERCIER: I'm just going to begin
21 with some of the items we talked about at the
22 field review today. And Mr. Libertine, I'll just
23 start right off with you. For the field review
24 itself, would you please describe the balloon fly
25 which appeared to be unsuccessful?

1 THE WITNESS (Libertine): Yes. We've
2 been out at the site attempting to fly a balloon
3 at the site location since this morning at about
4 quarter to 8. It's not been very successful due
5 to the high winds which have been anywhere from
6 about 15 mile an hours to about 25 or 30 mile an
7 hour gusts. We've lost several balloons. They
8 ranged being up in the air from anywhere from a
9 couple of minutes to actually the most success we
10 had was during the field review when we actually
11 had the balloon up probably about 30 minutes.
12 Unfortunately, with the winds, even when it was
13 aloft, it was never really for any real length of
14 time at its full maximum height. So it's not
15 really been a successful day for trying to get a
16 line of sight to the top height of the tower.

17 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. One of the
18 things that was mentioned out there was there was
19 five residences within 1,000 feet of the site. I
20 just want your sense of what -- obviously you did
21 a visibility analysis, and I was looking at some
22 of the maps. I just want to know what your sense
23 was of the visibility, whether it's year-round or
24 seasonal, from those properties and potentially
25 even the homes themselves?

1 THE WITNESS (Libertine): From those
2 neighboring properties, the prevailing views would
3 occur when the leaves are off the trees. There
4 really was not any views, at least from the
5 streets in front of those properties, where we
6 could actually see the balloon eclipsing the trees
7 themselves. So as I say, the prevailing views
8 will likely be during the winter months or during
9 the times of the year when the leaves are off the
10 deciduous trees and through the trees themselves,
11 with the only exception being the home that's
12 directly across from the entrance to the golf
13 course, which is actually part of the golf --
14 well, it's not part of the golf course property,
15 but it's in common ownership to the golf course.

16 MR. MERCIER: I'm looking at your
17 visibility analysis with the blown up colors of
18 yellow and orange representing the visibility, and
19 also looking at C-1, map C-1 in attachment 1 of
20 the application. In there they have a 2,500 foot
21 radius. And, again, I just want to review some of
22 the properties to the east of the site in relation
23 to the tower site.

24 THE WITNESS (Libertine): Yes.

25 MR. MERCIER: There's a little tiny map

1 in the corner. So at the corner of Folly Lane and
2 I believe that is Goose Lane, I see it looks like
3 a residence right at the corner, and then a large
4 parcel appears undeveloped according to this map.
5 Do you see that?

6 THE WITNESS (Libertine): Yes.

7 MR. MERCIER: Do you believe that
8 residence there would have any visibility as we're
9 looking towards the west towards the tower, given
10 the terrain there?

11 THE WITNESS (Libertine): Yes. View 32
12 actually depicts that location. And through the
13 trees you can see from about the distance of about
14 two-tenths of a mile away. Through the trees
15 there will be some limited views from portions of
16 that property.

17 MR. MERCIER: Okay.

18 THE WITNESS (Libertine): Again, with
19 the leaves off the trees.

20 MR. MERCIER: Looking at this radius,
21 the 2,500 foot, and we just talked about the 1,000
22 foot, do you believe there's any year-round
23 visibility from anything around the radius from
24 the residential homes besides the one you
25 mentioned just north of the site on the golf

1 course property?

2 THE WITNESS (Libertine): I don't. In
3 the immediate area, if you drive the streets that
4 essentially bound the southern portion of the golf
5 course, you'll notice that there's quite a bit of
6 separating distance, as well as intervening tree
7 lines, multiple tree lines associated with
8 fairways and buffers from the golf course.

9 And, again, we did multiple floats with
10 the leaves off the trees, not only for this
11 particular report that's been presented, but we
12 also coordinated with the town to do a couple of
13 independent floats so that town personnel could
14 come out and see it. So we're very confident that
15 the tower itself is not going to eclipse the trees
16 from those locations just based on proximity and
17 again the intervening tree lines.

18 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. Just in the
19 development of the property, the site itself on
20 the property, I did a similar docket on another
21 golf course, and the property owner really wanted
22 a tree tower. Did that ever come up with the
23 property owner here for the aesthetics of the
24 actual golf course itself?

25 THE WITNESS (Befera): No.

1 THE WITNESS (Libertine): Not to my
2 knowledge.

3 MR. MERCIER: Again, just looking at
4 this map here on page C-1, it kind of shows -- the
5 site is kind of in a deep valley. So I'm just
6 curious, given its location, was this area of town
7 always a concern of Verizon where there's no
8 coverage ever really present, or maybe just
9 limited service?

10 THE WITNESS (Paradis): What brought me
11 here was capacity offload for other sites, and
12 that was my initial investigation. And then
13 talking with my SP counterpart, I found out there
14 were other issues in the area. And he did some
15 drive testing for me as well and found that there
16 was deficiencies.

17 MR. MERCIER: Now, when you mentioned
18 offloads, I saw that in the application, there was
19 two sites, Coventry North and the Tolland cell
20 sites, the two-sector -- one sector per site, that
21 is. Was that at the 700 megahertz frequency?

22 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Yes.

23 MR. MERCIER: Thank you.

24 And just looking at your drive test
25 data that you just handed out today, obviously

1 there's a lot of red here which indicates
2 deficient service. Is that correct?

3 THE WITNESS (Paradis): That's correct.

4 MR. MERCIER: What would be sufficient
5 service, the blue or the green?

6 THE WITNESS (Paradis): The blue and
7 the green.

8 MR. MERCIER: Blue and the green, okay.

9 Now, for the yellow and red areas, I'm
10 just trying to compare your coverage maps with
11 this map. Just so we're clear, not everything
12 shown in red here or yellow is going to be served
13 by this tower. Is that correct?

14 THE WITNESS (Paradis): To some extent,
15 yes, but the majority of this coverage, this tower
16 will take care of that.

17 MR. MERCIER: So I --

18 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Of the
19 deficient coverage here, this new tower will take
20 care of the majority of it.

21 MR. MERCIER: The majority of it,
22 right. So --

23 THE WITNESS (Paradis): To the west
24 there's another site that's in the mix now that's
25 going to Coventry, Connecticut. So it's expected

1 that between the two of them we should get a real
2 good feel of what the deficiencies are.

3 MR. MERCIER: I guess that was my
4 question also. I was just looking at this map. I
5 see something called Grant Hill -- this is the
6 drive test route map -- and just North of that,
7 Pine Hill Road. So I'm trying to compare your map
8 with this drive test and the coverage map in the
9 application. That seems to be the dividing line
10 of service. Would that be a fair statement? Do
11 you see where it says Grant Hill on this map, kind
12 of west of the site, and then there's Pine Hill
13 Road?

14 THE WITNESS (Paradis): If you went
15 north and south from there is what you're saying?

16 MR. MERCIER: Yeah. Basically, would
17 that be the dividing line, the high ridge?

18 THE WITNESS (Paradis): If you include
19 the Coventry site, then that would cover that.
20 Without the Coventry site, I wouldn't be --

21 MR. MERCIER: Right. I'm just trying
22 to figure out what the demarcation here is.
23 That's all I'm trying to do.

24 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Yes. Grant
25 Hill would be to the west of that, and we wouldn't

1 see very good coverage from this side.

2 MR. MERCIER: Okay. And then just
3 north of this site that would be also, it looks
4 like I-84 where it says Tolland, just south of
5 Tolland that looks like I-84. So there's a large
6 gap there existing, according to your drive test.
7 This site would not cover that. Right?

8 THE WITNESS (Paradis): That's correct.
9 It might get in there slightly, but not --

10 MR. MERCIER: One thing I did notice
11 over on the right side of your map, the upper
12 northeast corner, I'll call it, it looks like
13 Route 195.

14 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Yes.

15 MR. MERCIER: On the application
16 coverage model, it does show kind of coverage
17 there, but this drive test actually does not. So
18 is that accurate? Is this drive test more
19 accurate than the modeling provided in the
20 application?

21 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Yes.

22 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. And again,
23 this site would not serve that 195 area?

24 THE WITNESS (Paradis): No, not to the
25 north.

1 MR. MERCIER: So essentially it's the
2 central part of this drive test map that would be
3 served?

4 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Correct.

5 MR. MERCIER: Just out of curiosity,
6 the gentleman here represents one of the emergency
7 responders. Did the town ever express interest,
8 or any of the emergency responders, to locate on
9 this tower?

10 THE WITNESS (Befera): We have not been
11 contacted by them just yet, no.

12 MR. MERCIER: Okay.

13 SENATOR MURPHY: That may change.

14 MR. LYNCH: Yes, now.

15 MR. MERCIER: Just one other question I
16 had. I noticed there is a propane-fired generator
17 here rather than diesel. I'm just trying to
18 determine -- and I've seen a lot of diesel sites,
19 but here's a propane one, which I haven't really
20 seen much of. So I'm trying to determine what is
21 the determining factor as to what you're going to
22 use at a particular site.

23 THE WITNESS (Befera): Well, since
24 we're right next to the maintenance sheds, there's
25 a lot of fuel usage, gasoline, petrocarbons, stuff

1 like that, in use in that area. So we don't want
2 to store in the form of a diesel tank anything
3 that slightly resembles that, should there be an
4 issue in the future where some might spill. We
5 don't want for anyone to think that we're
6 responsible for that.

7 THE WITNESS (Roberts): The other item
8 I would like to offer, too, is we do have wetlands
9 not that far to the east of our property, an
10 intermittent watercourse, not a stream course.

11 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. Are there any
12 operational issues with the propane? Is there
13 like a certain volume of the tank that has to be
14 maintained, the large tank, so it would operate
15 normally, or is there any type of pressure issues?

16 THE WITNESS (Befera): No. This one
17 actually is half the size of what we normally
18 would put in, but we're also using a generator
19 these days half the size of what we used to put
20 in. So the 500-gallon tank, as proposed, would
21 run this generator for four to five days without
22 requiring refueling.

23 MR. MERCIER: Thank you.

24 MR. LYNCH: Just to follow up to
25 Mr. Mercier's question, on refueling, is there a

1 schedule for refueling? Is there a gauge on the
2 tank that will, you know, alert the people that it
3 needs to be refueled?

4 THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes. Yes. It
5 is monitored by the cell site technician as to
6 when the exercising that we do now, which is every
7 other week for half an hour, would slowly use up
8 that fuel supply, but that is monitored visually
9 and through alarming.

10 MR. LYNCH: So you're saying that the
11 tech will inform -- there's no regular schedule,
12 the tech will inform the people refueling the
13 tanks?

14 THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes, the network
15 assurance folks, who we call the cell technicians,
16 would monitor those for their list of sites and
17 make sure that it doesn't get down below a half a
18 tank. And if there is any expectation that
19 there's a storm coming, one of their duties is to
20 top all tanks off in preparation of a storm with
21 potential power outages.

22 MR. LYNCH: You anticipated my
23 question. Thank you.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 MR. SILVESTRI: Just as a quick

1 follow-up on that. When you say they would
2 monitor it, is it remotely, or would they be on
3 site?

4 THE WITNESS (Befera): On site.

5 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you.

6 MR. MERCIER: Just going back to the
7 earlier discussion we had, I believe you said you
8 had another cell tower facility or
9 telecommunications site a little bit to the
10 northwest that serves some of the areas we
11 discussed that would not be served by this tower.
12 Is that in the search ring stage, or are you
13 finalizing a location, just out of curiosity?

14 THE WITNESS (Paradis): It's a
15 preexisting tower that we're going to co-load on.

16 MR. MERCIER: Okay. All right. Thank
17 you.

18 THE WITNESS (Befera): It's actually in
19 construction right now.

20 MR. MERCIER: Thank you.

21 THE WITNESS (Befera): It's been
22 through your board for approval. I think it was
23 called Coventry Northwest -- Coventry West, but we
24 took away the west because we didn't have a
25 straight Coventry site. But when you saw it, it

1 was Coventry West.

2 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Thank you.

3 One thing. I was flipping through the
4 diagrams and on page A-1 of attachment 1 it just
5 shows the platform mounts. And I believe at the
6 last docket I did recently, there was something
7 called cluster mounts, which would be the new
8 design. Is that something that's going to be
9 installed at this site, or are you going to be
10 using the platform mounts, as shown here?

11 THE WITNESS (Paradis): I just need to
12 clarify what was intended as cluster mount.
13 Cluster mount is that we have to bring our
14 antennas close to each other, so we use a mounting
15 bracket that does that in order for us to utilize
16 current technology. So it's not so much that you
17 have to flush mount those to get that effect, but
18 that you just need to have those antennas mounted
19 close to each other. So it's not the standard
20 4-foot spacing that we've been doing. Now we've
21 brought them in to actually 4 inches of each other
22 on edge to edge. So it gives us a 16-inch center
23 line to center line. And the bracket that we call
24 the mounting bracket for this, which would be the
25 cluster mount, that's what that describes.

1 MR. MERCIER: Correct. So the profile
2 of the antennas will be in a little bit compared
3 to a traditional tower?

4 THE WITNESS (Paradis): For this
5 current design, that's correct.

6 MR. MERCIER: Okay.

7 SENATOR MURPHY: Mr. Lynch.

8 MR. LYNCH: Just another follow-up. In
9 the past you had to have a certain distance of
10 separation between the antennas. So what you're
11 saying now is you've gone down from 4 feet to 4
12 inches in separation with no interference?

13 THE WITNESS (Paradis): For the one
14 frequency. This is for 700 and the 850 band.
15 That's where we're utilizing that technique. The
16 other high bands that are incorporated in those
17 same two antennas also have the internal spacing
18 within the antenna. So that meets those -- it's
19 by wavelength is the way it's determined. So it's
20 the frequency that determines the spacing.

21 But that doesn't mean that the other
22 technologies, if they were required, wouldn't be
23 utilized that need that 4-foot spacing such as the
24 850 CDMA. So if we were rebuilding the site, or
25 reloading the site, then we would have to take

1 into consideration those frequencies that are on
2 the site already and when we do relocate it so
3 that we would have those specific spacing, and the
4 platform size would be -- have to be according to
5 that. And as a design engineer, I also like to
6 leave platform room space for further design
7 movement.

8 MR. LYNCH: Thank you.

9 MR. MERCIER: You just mentioned the
10 mounting bracket. I just had a question. I
11 understand the tower is going to be built to the
12 Connecticut Building Code, which is the 222-G
13 standard. Does the actual antenna where it hits
14 the bracket, is that also part of that building
15 code, or is there another type of code used for
16 the antenna attachments to the mounts?

17 THE WITNESS (Roberts): It all falls
18 under the standard code.

19 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Thank you.

20 I have no other questions.

21 SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you, Mr.

22 Mercier.

23 We'll continue on the questioning with
24 Mr. Harder.

25 MR. HARDER: Yes. Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 Just two quick questions. One
3 follow-up for Mr. Libertine on a conversation we
4 had on the site about the fill that's shown as
5 proposed on the drawings. It's on the western
6 corner -- southwestern corner. You said that
7 there's some discussion ongoing, I guess, about
8 possibly reducing the size of the platform or the
9 enclosure which may reduce or eliminate the need
10 for that fill. Could you discuss that a little
11 bit, and tell us where you are on that?

12 THE WITNESS (Roberts): That would be
13 me.

14 MR. HARDER: Okay. Sorry.

15 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Yes, it was
16 brought to our attention a possible way of
17 eliminating some of that fill being nipping the
18 two corners to the -- I'll call it to the south,
19 possibly moving our compound 2 feet to the north,
20 but keeping the pole in the same location, and
21 that may be a way of eliminating the need to
22 remove that. And we certainly will be willing to
23 entertain that and prepare something for the D&M.

24 MR. HARDER: Okay. The only other
25 question I had is kind of a bigger question on the

1 compound itself. At least the drawing I'm looking
2 at, shows almost half of the compound on that
3 fairly steep slope to the west or the northwest,
4 which would appear to be almost unusable unless
5 you provided a fair amount of fill in that area.

6 Can you explain, is there anything
7 projected or proposed down the road for that area;
8 and if not, why do you have that area as part of
9 the compound?

10 THE WITNESS (Roberts): The location of
11 the compound was kind of always anticipated to be
12 in this from day one. When we leased our 100 by
13 100, we wanted to make sure for the landlord that
14 we did preserve his golf cart access along that
15 side, which is to the east, right along that. And
16 he has some maintenance equipment and stuff that,
17 you know, they store materials for their sand
18 traps and such. So that would just reserve that
19 whole section. So we kept the 100 by 100, but
20 kept the compound, but shifted from sort of the
21 center to the west. And there is no further land
22 to develop that. We have a smaller compound, you
23 know, 40 by 60, as opposed to a 50 by 50, but we
24 anticipate that co-locater should have ample
25 opportunity to be within that.

1 MR. HARDER: Okay. Thank you.

2 That's all, Mr. Chairman.

3 SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you, Mr. Harder.

4 Dr. Klemens.

5 DR. KLEMENS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 I have some questions that are partially just
7 generated from the site visit, which I think we
8 need to get into the record. I asked about the
9 composition of that mound, whether it was
10 anthropogenic or not, and its ability for actually
11 holding the structure. And if someone could
12 answer that into the record, please?

13 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Certainly,
14 Dr. Klemens. That area certainly has had some
15 anthropogenic changes to it. Historically, it
16 appears that -- and this was confirmed with our
17 soil investigation as part of the wetland
18 delineation that was performed for the project is
19 that the soils underlying that area are dominated
20 by Hinckley gravelly soils, glacial outwash
21 material. Probably historically that area had a
22 little bit higher elevation, it was probably cut
23 down for the development of the golf course, and
24 then some material has been moved around, pushed
25 around in that area. But underlying that area is

1 native, stable glacial outwash material.

2 DR. KLEMENS: Thank you. I was very
3 taken by your response about why you were putting
4 a propane tank in because of wishing to be -- I'm
5 paraphrasing this -- held accountable for what
6 might already be there in the soil from the
7 maintenance facility. I was struck actually
8 walking out there today by a very, very strong
9 smell between that equipment and that on the
10 ground of petrochemicals.

11 So my question to you is, I think it's
12 great you're putting a propane tank there. I'd
13 like to see more propane tanks in other places.
14 But you have soil there which you're going to be
15 moving around. And I assume that some of that is
16 going to be incorporated into your cuts and fills
17 that you're going to propose. How do we know that
18 that soil is actually clean, and how are you going
19 to -- what are you going to do to ensure that's
20 clean soil? I mean, I think there's potential
21 that it might actually be contaminated.

22 THE WITNESS (Befera): We have a
23 process prior to our willingness to sign an
24 agreement where soil testings are performed when
25 there is suspect contamination. We do soil

1 samples and determine if levels of anything
2 reportable are above or below the reportable
3 limits, but even if they're below, as was this
4 case, surprisingly, that was the main driver for
5 us to go to propane was because if there are any
6 elements detected at any level, even below the
7 reporting requirements, we immediately restrict
8 the site for diesel fuel for ourselves for our own
9 use.

10 We also have in this program a notice
11 to contractor that provides specific instructions
12 on how to handle the soils based on the
13 information that we have gotten back from the
14 actual physical testing of the soils. That could
15 be anywhere from leaving it on site, to
16 transporting it to the proper facility for
17 disposal.

18 DR. KLEMENS: So just to clarify.
19 Let's say for argument's sake that some of the
20 soil had some petro petroleum products in it, it's
21 not going to end up being put on your cuts and
22 fills that are going to drain downward, it's going
23 to be dealt with appropriately?

24 THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes, absolutely.

25 DR. KLEMENS: Thank you.

1 I asked in the field -- well, firstly,
2 I want to talk about this wetland delineation on
3 page 2 of your delineation form. In your general
4 comments "narrow, well-confined intermittent
5 stream." Can you tell me how that's different
6 from an anthropogenically created drainage ditch?

7 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): It's actually
8 I would consider a fairly similar description in
9 that the channel out there is more anthropogenic
10 in nature than a natural channel.

11 DR. KLEMENS: So you're talking about,
12 you're basically confirming what I said, it's
13 really a drainage ditch?

14 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): That's its
15 main function. There are some wetland soils, very
16 narrow, that border that stream. So there's
17 always been some type of seep in that area. It's
18 always been narrow, well confined, but the channel
19 itself looks like it's mainly been manmade to help
20 facilitate drainage off the fairway.

21 DR. KLEMENS: So that's basically why
22 you -- there's not a special -- you said there's
23 not a special aquatic habitat. Did you actually
24 look for hybrid -- are there hybrid soils there?

25 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes. There

1 are just a couple of spots along that delineated
2 channel where there's just off the shelf there's
3 maybe like a 2 or 3 foot wide shelf off the
4 channel where there actually is poorly drained
5 hybrid soil.

6 DR. KLEMENS: I'm seeing that actually
7 on the photograph on wetland inspection, I see
8 that generally these are to the east of the
9 channel. They look like areas of wetland soils.
10 Is that correct?

11 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): That's
12 correct. And if you look on the first page of the
13 wetland 1 field form under class, we do note it as
14 disturbed.

15 DR. KLEMENS: Okay. I just wanted to
16 get that into the record.

17 Now, I also asked in the field about
18 the distance to the much larger wooded swamp to
19 the west, and that distance was given, I think, by
20 Mr. Libertine. I want to be sure we get that into
21 the record also.

22 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): So there is
23 another forested wetland system on the property,
24 but it's much further to the west across two
25 fairways. So it's approximately 300-plus feet

1 away from the nearest proposed activity.

2 DR. KLEMENS: And would your -- let's
3 just argue, if there were vernal pool species
4 somewhere in that, do you think they would be
5 moving across both those fairways to use the area
6 by the maintenance shed?

7 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): The area
8 where we're proposing the facility really doesn't
9 provide optimal terrestrial habitat for
10 herpetofauna, so I wouldn't anticipate any
11 migration of species across those fairways to that
12 location.

13 DR. KLEMENS: Thank you.

14 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): You're
15 welcome.

16 DR. KLEMENS: Let's talk about the
17 single tree. There's a question of possibly --
18 about the single tree that you may lose. We
19 looked at that tree in the field, and I think we
20 had a discussion about the quality of that
21 particular white oak compared to the other trees
22 that were immediately to the west of it. Could
23 you put that into the record on that particular
24 tree?

25 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): So on that

1 slope there are a group of several trees. The
2 area that you discuss, there is a smaller, I
3 think, 6-inch tree. It's actually noted on the
4 survey plan as a maple. I think that's just a
5 misnomer. I think it's another oak. And then
6 further down the slope is a larger, much larger
7 white oak that will remain. That smaller tree
8 definitely has some top damage. It's not a
9 significant tree at all. So I don't see any
10 reason to try to preserve that tree.

11 DR. KLEMENS: As a matter of fact, part
12 of the problem with that tree might be its
13 position next to the larger oak tree not having
14 anywhere to go. Is that correct?

15 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): That's
16 correct. The large tree overshadows the smaller.

17 DR. KLEMENS: And the very last thing
18 is we mentioned in the field you discussed the
19 potential, you asked me the potential for Hognose
20 Snake on the site. And I've noticed actually
21 there's a whole bunch of gravel pits up and down
22 this valley. So to minimize -- you don't know,
23 they're not reported there, but there's potential
24 there. We agreed that maybe -- we discussed
25 something that might be a good thing to do to

1 minimize incidental take of Hognose Snakes, and
2 maybe put that into the record too, please.

3 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Sure.
4 There's currently a pile of logs that is located
5 in the area of the proposed facility. That
6 potentially could provide cover for Hognose Snakes
7 if they do exist in the area. So we would
8 recommend that those logs be removed during the
9 winter months when the snake is dormant.

10 Cellco would also offer to implement a
11 Hognose Snake protection plan, similar to what we
12 did for the Dayville facility, which is referenced
13 under Docket Number 469. And we can implement
14 those measures in the D&M, if the Council approves
15 the application here tonight.

16 DR. KLEMENS: Thank you. I have no
17 further questions, Mr. Chairman.

18 SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you, Dr.
19 Klemens.

20 Mr. Hannon.

21 MR. HANNON: Thank you. I want to go
22 back to the generator for a minute. I thought I
23 heard out in the field that the generator would be
24 coming in on a skid?

25 THE WITNESS (Roberts): The standard

1 Verizon installation now is a prefabricated
2 equipment platform on concrete piers, and it is
3 shipped with not only the electrical panel
4 installed, but also the radios and the generator
5 itself mounted and prewired on that platform. So
6 what ultimately happens is they offload with a
7 crane and place it right onto the piers.

8 MR. HANNON: This is why I'm raising
9 the question because on page 2 you talk about the
10 equipment cabinets and the propane fuel back-up
11 generator will be installed on a 12-foot by
12 26-foot steel platform with a canopy. On map C-3
13 you talked about the generator being mounted on a
14 4 by 8 concrete pad. And then I heard out in the
15 field the propane tank was coming in on a skid.
16 So I'm just trying to make sure I know exactly
17 what it is that you're talking about.

18 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Sure. I can
19 see the confusion. The generator itself comes on
20 the skid, if you will. The propane tank, NFPA
21 requires a clearance of 10 feet for flame and fire
22 from anything electrical that could ignite it. So
23 the tank itself is away from the skid, and that is
24 on an 8 by 4 foot concrete pad.

25 MR. HANNON: And then I'm assuming it's

1 underground tubing?

2 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Correct.

3 MR. HANNON: And then the quantity of
4 fuel that's being used, I'm assuming that you're
5 planning on operating your permit by rule through
6 the air program?

7 THE WITNESS (Befera): I'm sorry, I
8 didn't catch that.

9 MR. HANNON: I'm just asking, you said
10 that you'd be operating the generator roughly a
11 half hour every other week. And with the air
12 program there are a couple of different ways of
13 permitting this type of activity. One is with a
14 general permit; the other one is under permit by
15 rule. So I'm just asking what the anticipated use
16 is for fuel, and whether or not you would qualify
17 under the permit by rule?

18 THE WITNESS (Libertine): The
19 anticipation would be less than the 300 hours, so
20 it would fall under that.

21 MR. HANNON: Okay. On page 18, second
22 paragraph, that long one, you state that the
23 facility would be located in Flood Zone C, an area
24 of moderate flood hazard between 100 and 500 year
25 flood zones. So my question is, at what elevation

1 would the sensitive electrical equipment be
2 located? And would that be taking into
3 consideration the 500 year flood, or just sticking
4 with the 100?

5 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): I think there
6 needs to be a clarification on the narrative. It
7 is a Zone C, it's an unshaded Zone C, which means
8 that it's beyond the 500 year flood. So it's not
9 located between the 100 and 500. The actual
10 facility location as -- behind tab 50 in the
11 applicant's Exhibit 1, which is the FEMA map,
12 shows the site located in unshaded Zone C, which
13 is beyond the 500 year.

14 MR. HANNON: And I don't have any
15 difficulty with what you're saying, but based on
16 what's in the document itself, there is some
17 issue.

18 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): The narrative
19 needs to be clarified. It needs to be changed.

20 MR. HANNON: Thank you.

21 And then on map C-3 -- we had talked
22 about this in the field -- and one of the things I
23 was wondering is whether or not -- I think in the
24 field I said to the east, but it's actually to the
25 north by sliding the chain-link fence compound a

1 little bit to the north, and then going in and
2 taking those two southern corners and putting in a
3 45-degree angle, I think that's going to help in
4 terms of eliminating or not -- reducing the amount
5 of fill that might even need to go into the
6 grading at that low point, and you might even be
7 able to save a couple of feet on the retaining
8 wall in height.

9 The one question I had is, what were
10 you proposing the retaining wall to be made of?
11 Is it poured concrete, is it a brick structure,
12 interlocking brick, or what?

13 THE WITNESS (Roberts): It will be a
14 precast concrete interlocking brick retaining
15 wall.

16 MR. HANNON: If that's something that
17 could be done, then I think that might make it a
18 little bit easier, both for the cost of the
19 project, as well as minimizing some of the grading
20 that might need to be done around there.

21 And then I guess the last question I
22 have is, everybody has been talking about a white
23 oak or an oak tree that's been removed, but
24 according to map C-3, it's a 6-inch maple. So are
25 we talking about the same tree?

1 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): It is the
2 same tree. The maple is a misnomer. It should
3 actually be an oak.

4 MR. HANNON: Okay. I'm done. Thank
5 you.

6 SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you.

7 Mr. Silvestri.

8 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you. Just to
9 clarify, we're not in a 100 year flood zone, and
10 we're not in a 500 year flood zone. Is that
11 correct?

12 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): That is
13 correct.

14 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you.

15 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): You're
16 welcome.

17 MR. SILVESTRI: Going back to the
18 propane tank, is natural gas available?

19 THE WITNESS (Roberts): No, it is not
20 at the site.

21 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you.

22 And it's a 500 gallon propane tank.
23 How much propane does a 500 gallon propane tank
24 hold?

25 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Could we get

1 back to you after our dinner break?

2 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you. I
3 was going to put that in terms of potential hours
4 run. So thank you.

5 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Okay.

6 MR. SILVESTRI: Staying with the
7 generator and the propane tank, you had mentioned
8 before that the monitoring of the propane tank
9 level would be done on site. As far as the
10 operation for maintenance, would that be done
11 remotely, or would you also have somebody on site?

12 THE WITNESS (Befera): Maintenance is
13 also done on site.

14 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you.

15 And if I could turn your attention to
16 drawing C-3. If I follow the measurements of the
17 wall all around, at the very bottom of the page,
18 which is kind of east, the top of the wall is 542,
19 bottom of the wall is 541, so it's a 1-foot wall.

20 Then if you go to the left, so you're
21 kind of in the southern part, it's 542 and 540, so
22 the difference is 2 feet.

23 And then going towards the west, or
24 towards the top of the page, it's 542 and 537, so
25 now we have a 5-foot wall.

1 And then continuing on, we go back to
2 542 and 541 for a 1-foot wall.

3 First of all, do I have the
4 measurements correct, they'll go from 1 to 5 feet?

5 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Yes.

6 MR. SILVESTRI: When you're looking at
7 the fence that would go around this, does the
8 fence go inside the wall, on top of the wall, or
9 outside of the wall?

10 THE WITNESS (Roberts): It's placed
11 just behind the wall, so at the top of the wall.

12 MR. SILVESTRI: All right. So the
13 fence would be 8 feet?

14 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Correct.

15 MR. SILVESTRI: And I could then climb
16 up on top of the 5 foot wall. I could go from 1
17 foot, and I could go up to the 5 foot level, and
18 I'd only have 3 feet that I could climb over.

19 THE WITNESS (Roberts): No. It sits on
20 top of the --

21 MR. SILVESTRI: On top of it.

22 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Yes.

23 MR. SILVESTRI: All right. Got you.

24 Thank you.

25 If I could then have you turn to Tab 8,

1 the site search summary. It's stated that the
2 town manager offered the use of Laidlaw Park if
3 the proposed location is not approved. Did the
4 town manager pinpoint the location within that
5 area?

6 THE WITNESS (Befera): No.

7 MR. SILVESTRI: Did you investigate the
8 area at all?

9 THE WITNESS (Befera): No. The town
10 manager also suggested that the owner of the
11 property that we are proposing the site on has
12 been a good corporate citizen, and only if this
13 proposal were to go south would he have further
14 discussions about that property.

15 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you.

16 And the last question is more on a
17 clarification. Getting back to the drive test
18 map, the colored one that we have here, if I
19 understood correctly with the answer back to Mr.
20 Mercier, the area up on 84 would stay that
21 yellow/red color with the proposed cell tower
22 going into service. Is that correct?

23 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Yes, that's
24 correct.

25 MR. SILVESTRI: And that also the area

1 running north-south, say, from Pine Hill Road down
2 to Twin Hills Country Club, that would kind of
3 stay the color that it is on this map?

4 THE WITNESS (Paradis): I believe that
5 the new site that is in construction right now is
6 going to have an effect on that area, but this
7 current site was not designed to get that far.

8 MR. SILVESTRI: But everything to the
9 east, would that turn green with this proposed
10 cell tower, or blue?

11 THE WITNESS (Paradis): What are the
12 boundaries again?

13 MR. SILVESTRI: If I look to the east,
14 say, from Grant Hill to where it has Forest Road
15 in Mansfield.

16 THE WITNESS (Paradis): It's not going
17 to quite get over to the brook there. So some of
18 that may remain. There may be problems on the
19 right side where it starts to begin to get red.

20 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay.

21 THE WITNESS (Paradis): On the
22 southeast corner.

23 MR. SILVESTRI: But, in general, the
24 red and yellow areas that are adjacent to the site
25 come over where there's a number 829, that would

1 change to green or blue?

2 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Again, what's
3 the reference to the right?

4 MR. SILVESTRI: No, actually it's to
5 the left where you have the site --

6 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Number 829.

7 MR. SILVESTRI: Yeah, 829.

8 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Yes, I would
9 expect improvement there.

10 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you.

11 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

12 SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you.

13 Mr. Lynch.

14 MR. LYNCH: My first question is going
15 to be my most important question. If I'm on a
16 golf course and my drive goes towards your
17 facility, and it's up against the fence, is that
18 going to be marked a hazard, or do I get a free
19 lift? Never mind.

20 The next question I have is -- I really
21 know the answer to it already. I'm just looking
22 for a comment -- and that would have to do with
23 the recent storms that we've had in Florida, a
24 little bit in Texas, and the fires out in
25 California where anywhere from 70 to 90 percent of

1 the cell towers are out of service.

2 And I have a follow-up. I'd just like
3 to get your comment on that. And how long did
4 they take to get back into service? I guess
5 that's for the RF engineers.

6 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Well, I can
7 tell you what information that I have learned
8 recently. We had a webcast for our company over
9 all three issues in Texas, Florida and California.
10 With the availability of us bringing out service
11 with COWS, you know, the cell tower on wheels, we
12 were able to get service back up quickly for first
13 responders. From what I understood, in Florida we
14 went down to 92 percent, but because we had
15 back-up power, all of our sites stayed up and
16 running. The power was the biggest issue and
17 knocking everybody else down. But we stayed up,
18 and we were at 92 percent. And in Texas, I think
19 it was 90 percent.

20 So even though things came through, our
21 stuff held on, it didn't ruin our towers in the
22 hurricane situation, and the back-up power is what
23 saved us and our services. In the fire situation
24 that is different.

25 MR. LYNCH: I understand. I have one

1 follow-up question to that. And we have been told
2 in the past from engineers and RF engineers that
3 the antennas on the towers would be secured in the
4 event of a hurricane, but in some of the photos
5 I've seen, especially of Florida -- I can't speak
6 for Texas -- the antennas were stripped entirely
7 from these towers. You know, when you've got 150
8 mile an hour winds, I can understand it.

9 What is the likelihood of something
10 like that coming -- we do get hurricanes up
11 here -- of you losing your antennas? And from the
12 scenario you just described, would a portable
13 tower be in place until those antennas came back?

14 THE WITNESS (Befera): Like you
15 mentioned, we had the most recent hurricanes here,
16 Sandy and Irene were probably the most recent
17 significant hurricanes that we've had here. We
18 did not have an instance where antennas were
19 stripped from the towers. Certainly these
20 hurricanes in this region, but particularly those
21 two most recent, weren't of the severity of the
22 Florida hurricane or Harvey in Texas.

23 So we haven't had any of our stuff
24 stripped. But if a site, the typical outage is
25 out of service due to power, in which case in the

1 State of Connecticut we are comfortable with in
2 excess of 90 -- I think we're around 93 percent of
3 our macro sites in Connecticut have back-up power,
4 and that's served very well during those two
5 storms, in particular, where I think at the peak
6 of the outages, and I know the October snowstorm
7 that same year as Irene, that came in just before
8 Irene, we had throughout New England some 500
9 sites out of service due to power. And I think
10 the October snowstorm was the largest outage for
11 the State of Connecticut between those three
12 storms that were all fairly close together. And
13 some of the other companies that don't have the
14 generators at their sites might be the ones that
15 the press was talking about, the 60, 70 percent of
16 the towers were down. They weren't our sites.

17 MR. LYNCH: I understand the power
18 issue. But maybe Mr. Roberts can help me out
19 here. I think the wind standards are 85 mile an
20 hour winds. Antennas do get stripped. You know,
21 and I'm saying the likelihood is that if you have
22 anything greater than 85 miles an hour, they're in
23 jeopardy.

24 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Well, that
25 would be the design criteria would be 85. And

1 just like anything else, there are safety factors
2 and such into that equation so that the service
3 mile per hour would be that. We have a wind speed
4 with a 3 second gust that gets formulated into an
5 actual, you know, forced pressure on those
6 antennas, and they're all designed for that.
7 There is that safety factor on top of that, and,
8 you know, there could be 80 percent above that
9 could be, you know, a safety factor.

10 Many times, I'd offer too, some of
11 these towers were pretty -- well, it's a long time
12 ago, wind speeds, especially on the coastal, gulf
13 coast in Florida, you know, those wind speeds have
14 increased over the years into hurricanes hitting,
15 and rethinking of their building codes.

16 MR. LYNCH: Fair enough.

17 SENATOR MURPHY: Dr. Klemens has a
18 follow-up, Mr. Lynch.

19 DR. KLEMENS: I've heard this now go
20 back and forth on this issue of stripping antennas
21 and that. And I guess what I'd like to get is
22 sort of an understanding. In the terms of
23 creating a reliable wireless network, what I
24 believe I'm hearing from you today is that the
25 attention should be focused -- I mean, we

1 shouldn't be blind to the fact that antennas can
2 be stripped, but the real -- for Connecticut the
3 real important thing is what I'm hearing -- tell
4 me if I'm wrong -- is that the power is what is
5 the important thing for the reliability here in
6 this state?

7 THE WITNESS (Befera): That, as well as
8 the backhaul connections being backed up. Because
9 you could have -- you know, if we lose our
10 backhaul, the fiber connections, the generator
11 could be running all day long, the site is
12 running, but it's not processing calls. So that,
13 of course, is in jeopardy if, you know, in areas
14 where the fiber is running along poles, downed
15 branches could take it out. So that's something
16 that we have to rely on those fiber providers to
17 be fast at repairing those.

18 DR. KLEMENS: So those two items are
19 really, I mean, in terms of a risk assessment and
20 trying to provide a reliable wireless network in
21 Connecticut, those two items you've just mentioned
22 are more important or more real than maybe the
23 specter of a stripping of an antenna in a high
24 wind event?

25 THE WITNESS (Befera): That's what we

1 have seen in the history here. That's what we
2 have seen more of as the cause of outages than
3 stripping of antennas. And we do, of course, have
4 an arsenal of cells on wheels, as well as ballast
5 temporary towers. I know we've been through this
6 board for permitting of those types of temporary
7 facilities many times year after year. So, you
8 know, if something as catastrophic as stripping
9 antennas renders a site inoperable, we do have
10 those types of temp facilities in our arsenal.

11 DR. KLEMENS: And just one final
12 question. Is it possible to create antennas that
13 are more resistant to stripping than the 85 mile
14 an hour antennas, and how does that cost figure
15 into the overall strategy of reliability?

16 THE WITNESS (Roberts): I'll offer up
17 that the specs on the antennas are pretty much
18 like 150 miles an hour. They're designed to, you
19 know, the worst-case scenario, whether it's Dayton
20 County wind speeds in the United States, or some
21 other country that maybe they're coming from have
22 higher wind speeds. It really boils down to how
23 it's mounted, you know, the strength of the bolts,
24 is it maintained, you know, are they -- you know,
25 did someone do something and, in fact, not

1 reinstall it properly where it was bound to. The
2 antennas can stand a huge amount of wind load.
3 It's really the failure of the brackets. That's
4 why they get stripped. They should never be
5 stripped. I mean, the Florida towers that were
6 stripped -- and I think you possibly could look
7 back and find that -- you know, there was
8 maintenance done, stuff wasn't done properly, or
9 they were never designed properly from the get-go.
10 The antennas themselves were probably in pieces
11 somewhere downwind of it.

12 DR. KLEMENS: Thank you. This has been
13 very illuminating. Thank you.

14 SENATOR MURPHY: Mr. Lynch.

15 MR. LYNCH: I just have one more
16 follow-up, Mr. Roberts, and it doesn't include
17 wind. And I'm not an engineer. But my friend,
18 Mr. Ashton, who was an engineer, always was
19 talking about ice load. And in New England we do
20 get ice load. How does that impact the structure
21 of the antennas in the tower?

22 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Yes. Very,
23 very good point. The building code, state
24 building code, allots us a reduction of 75 percent
25 of the physical load that would be placed on that

1 with ice. Thinking that if it's 100 mile an hour,
2 there's no ice on that tower, that's all blown
3 off. So, I mean, it's logical. But there is
4 provisions within the code that do not say that
5 you have to take 100 mile an hour winds with, you
6 know, three-quarter inch radial ice on your tower
7 just from a physics point of view.

8 MR. LYNCH: I know you've heard this
9 question from Mr. Ashton before, so I had to get
10 it in.

11 I tried to find it in the application.
12 And when I read it, I missed it. You're going to
13 have GPS on the tower?

14 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Well, there's a
15 GPS antenna mounted to the canopy, and that in
16 turn syncs the whole thing up with the mixer --

17 MR. LYNCH: Because I was looking at
18 A-1 diagram, and I couldn't find where the GPS is
19 located, but it's --

20 THE WITNESS (Roberts): It will be on
21 the ice canopy.

22 MR. LYNCH: Okay. And that leads me to
23 a question that I have, too, about when did
24 Verizon switch over from building shelters to
25 having a canopy?

1 THE WITNESS (Befera): Pretty much
2 within the past 12 to 18 months.

3 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Yes, for New
4 England, I mean, I think to New England east, the
5 west, but I think we had our first site that was
6 ordered with that was in Stockbridge. And it's
7 part of CommScope's plan. And it's a good thing.
8 It's a work in progress. There's a lot of
9 learning that they're doing and we're doing with
10 them, but it's very much a plug and play. It gets
11 shipped with a canopy, a generator, everything is
12 wired. They just pick it at the time of the tower
13 and place it on the concrete piers.

14 MR. LYNCH: Thank you.

15 And, Mr. Befera, I think in a question
16 that Dr. Klemens asked about, you know,
17 contractors, are your contractors on call, or do
18 they have to answer an RFP with your instructions
19 and everything on them?

20 THE WITNESS (Befera): Our contractors
21 are available to us during -- you mean during an
22 emergency service type of situation?

23 MR. LYNCH: Any maintenance. Are they
24 on call? Are they contracted to you, or do you
25 issue for each tower a different RFP for different

1 contractors?

2 THE WITNESS (Befera): The operations
3 folks, we call network assurance, or the cell
4 technician teams, there is an RFP that is done
5 more on an annual basis, and with certain
6 qualifications as requirements that they, and the
7 successful bidder of that, on an annual basis has
8 the contract for that year, and they are the ones
9 that are on call and are responsible for generator
10 maintenance, and things like that.

11 MR. LYNCH: And is that contract
12 renewed every year?

13 THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes.

14 MR. LYNCH: Or does it go out to bid
15 every year?

16 THE WITNESS (Befera): It goes out to
17 bid pretty much every year, but it's usually
18 between the same three or four companies that have
19 the qualifications to meet our requirements. So
20 they kind of, you know, the contract bounces back
21 and forth amongst these four companies over the
22 course of five, six, seven years, but they're all
23 excellent companies.

24 MR. LYNCH: I have one other question I
25 have to find here, and that involves a term that I

1 hadn't seen before. Of course, I can't find it
2 now. I think it's like aggregated or aggregation
3 services.

4 THE WITNESS (Befera): You're talking
5 about carrier aggregation?

6 MR. LYNCH: Yes.

7 THE WITNESS (Befera): To increase
8 capacity. That's something Luke could talk about.

9 THE WITNESS (Paradis): So when we have
10 multiple frequencies on a tower, you can take the
11 bandwidth of each of those frequencies and bring
12 them together so that, if the phone is receiving
13 more than one frequency, you can actually make the
14 bandwidth bigger. So you can get twice as much
15 out of what you have than with one frequency. So
16 it may do that on one site, or it may do it
17 between sites is what the future plans are.

18 MR. LYNCH: Like I said, I hadn't seen
19 the term before, so I wanted to ask what it was.

20 Now, my last question has to do with I
21 know this is primarily, or a lot of it is, a
22 coverage situation. But how much percentage wise
23 would capacity be part of the equation here?

24 THE WITNESS (Paradis): For the two
25 sites we mentioned, it would be 5 percent or

1 greater on the exhausting sectors is where we
2 determine the start of an offload. Until the site
3 is in place, we really don't know where that's
4 going to end up in completion. So because we're
5 going to have to do some optimizations with the
6 sites by pulling them back to the degree that we
7 don't lose service but that the other site picks
8 it up. So it's more like putting the jigsaw
9 puzzle pieces in place to where they fit the best.
10 So when the sites are in place and live, then we
11 can make those optimizations.

12 MR. LYNCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 SENATOR MURPHY: Does any other
14 member -- Mr. Mercier.

15 MR. MERCIER: Just so I heard that
16 correctly, you said there would be at least a
17 minimum 5 percent offloaded capacity from the
18 adjacent sectors?

19 THE WITNESS (Paradis): That's correct.
20 That's where I draw my threshold for an offload.
21 It has to be 5 percent or more for me to consider
22 it as an offload.

23 MR. MERCIER: It didn't seem like a
24 lot, so I just wanted to make sure that was --

25 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Well, it may be

1 larger than that, but that's my minimum.

2 MR. MERCIER: Okay. And I had one
3 other question for Mr. Libertine. Given most of
4 the visibility surrounding the golf course is from
5 properties, the visibility is seasonal in nature,
6 would a brown painted tower be any benefit to the
7 views, or is the galvanized going to be okay?

8 THE WITNESS (Libertine): I think in
9 this case, because the views are so muted through
10 the trees, that the natural galvanizing and over
11 time having that more or less just kind of blend,
12 is going to be more than sufficient. We can go
13 back and forth. I know we discussed the different
14 colors that can be used, but the problem with the
15 straight brown is often in these deciduous
16 settings the trees during the winter have more of
17 a gray tone, so sometimes that brown actually
18 sticks out a little bit more. So I'm more of a
19 proponent for letting the gray weather naturally,
20 and then more or less will blend in as best it
21 can.

22 MR. MERCIER: Thank you.

23 SENATOR MURPHY: Dr. Klemens.

24 DR. KLEMENS: And certainly following
25 that, I looked at the visuals. There is

1 absolutely no benefit at all from a monopine here
2 at all?

3 THE WITNESS (Libertine): I can't see
4 one at all. We really don't have the setting that
5 would really, you know, where it would blend in
6 naturally. If anything, it would stick out more
7 just because of the fact that --

8 DR. KLEMENS: That's what I thought,
9 but I wanted to get that on the record. Thank
10 you.

11 THE WITNESS (Libertine): You're
12 welcome.

13 SENATOR MURPHY: Mr. Silvestri.

14 MR. SILVESTRI: I just have one more
15 question for you going back to the retaining wall.
16 Is there any concern of stormwater ponding within
17 that compound, either building up as far as water
18 and having runoff, or in the wintertime building
19 up and freezing?

20 THE WITNESS (Roberts): No. The design
21 of the compound itself is pervious surface, gravel
22 with filter fabric below that. Now, in the
23 section of the high ground, everything is down
24 gradient of, in fact, sort of a plateau that we're
25 creating for the compound itself, so it would not

1 be a concern of mine.

2 MR. SILVESTRI: Would any slope towards
3 the open end of the retaining wall?

4 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Yeah. The
5 retaining wall themselves will have weeps and
6 backflow gathering pipes to discharge to the
7 front.

8 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 SENATOR MURPHY: Anybody else have
11 anything?

12 (No response.)

13 SENATOR MURPHY: I have one other
14 thing. Mr. Baldwin, the answer to the question is
15 the town had not asked about coming on the tower,
16 but it appears they may. What would be the
17 response of Verizon if they ask to go on the tower
18 before we go off the record?

19 THE WITNESS (Befera): We'd be happy to
20 make space on the tower for any and all emergency
21 services for the town and the county. All that we
22 request -- and this is for the protection of those
23 emergency service organizations. This is for
24 their protection, because we have no control over
25 what the smart people in headquarters decide to do

1 when they want to sell our towers to somebody. So
2 I don't want the emergency service personnel to
3 get into a situation where they didn't get the
4 budget to put their equipment on the tower this
5 year, and next year we don't own the tower
6 anymore, and it's not a condition of our approval,
7 and the greedy tower company that bought these
8 towers from us doesn't want to let them on for
9 free, like we will.

10 So if we are fortunate enough to have
11 this tower approved, we would respectfully request
12 that it be a condition of the approval, so that
13 when that condition of approval is transferred in
14 the likely sale of a tower in the future, whoever
15 buys that tower has to let them on for a dollar,
16 or take the tower down. They're not going to take
17 the tower down.

18 DOUGLAS RACICOT: I couldn't have said
19 it better.

20 THE WITNESS (Befera): That works for
21 you?

22 MR. RACICOT: Very well positioned.
23 Thank you. And that would have been our request
24 as well. And we will submit that in writing. And
25 thank you very much.

1 SENATOR MURPHY: Now it's on the
2 record.

3 MR. RACICOT: Thank you very much, sir.

4 SENATOR MURPHY: Anybody else before we
5 close?

6 MR. LYNCH: Just one follow-up to the
7 town going there. Most towns would use a whip
8 antenna. Would you put that at the top of the
9 tower or somewhere on the side? Does that have to
10 be -- the engineer. Because I know --

11 THE WITNESS (Befera): I think that's
12 more of a -- there's got to be a frequency
13 coordination of sorts to make sure that we don't
14 interfere with each other.

15 MR. LYNCH: Because your antennas are
16 actually going above the tower -- the old Walinski
17 factor, and Mr. Baldwin knows, so does Mr.
18 Roberts, they know what I'm talking about -- so
19 how would you coordinate so there's no
20 interference with the town?

21 THE WITNESS (Paradis): Well, what's
22 happened in the past is that when we talk about
23 the equipment that's going on the tower and its
24 location and the need for center lines for how
25 high the antennas need to be, that would be a

1 consideration that we would say where do you need
2 to be on the tower, and we would do this all in
3 front of coming here. Right now we're kind of
4 behind the horse a little bit. But I would have
5 said, if you need 140 feet, or 130 feet, but I
6 would want my 140. So if he were to say he needed
7 140, then I would say we need a taller tower.
8 That's the way I would approach that.

9 MR. LYNCH: Now, even with a whip
10 antenna, do you still need that 10 feet of
11 separation?

12 THE WITNESS (Paradis): I would
13 recommend it, yes.

14 MR. LYNCH: Thank you.

15 MR. BALDWIN: I think what we'll do,
16 Mr. Chairman, is we'll speak to the folks after
17 the hearing, and then be prepared to address that
18 either later this evening or as part of the D&M
19 plan.

20 SENATOR MURPHY: Okay. Anybody else
21 before we close?

22 (No response.)

23 SENATOR MURPHY: If not, we'll recess
24 until 7 p.m., at which time we will commence the
25 public comment session.

1 (Whereupon, the witnesses were excused,
2 and the above proceedings were adjourned at 4:18
3 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 68 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original stenotype notes taken of the Siting Council Meeting in Re: Docket No. 475, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located adjacent to the maintenance building at the Skungamaug Golf Course, south of Folly Lane, at Coventry Tax Assessor's Map 006, Block 0026, Lot 0101, Coventry, Connecticut, which was held before SENATOR JAMES J. MURPHY, JR., VICE CHAIRMAN, at the Coventry Town Hall, Town Hall Annex, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, Connecticut, on October 24, 2017.



Lisa L. Warner, L.S.R., 061

Court Reporter

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I N D E X

WITNESSES		PAGE
	DEAN GUSTAFSON	
	MICHAEL LIBERTINE	
	ANTHONY BEFERA	
	DOUGLAS J. ROBERTS	
	RAY LUKE PARADIS	
	KELLY M. LEMAY	

EXAMINERS:

Mr. Baldwin (direct exam)	11
Mr. Mercier (start of cross)	14
Mr. Harder	
Dr. Klemens	
Mr. Hannon	
Mr. Silvstri	
Mr. Lynch	

APPLICANT'S EXHIBITS

(Received in evidence)

EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
II-B-1	Application for a Certificate of	14

Environmental Compatibility and Public
Need filed by Cellco Partnership d/b/a
Verizon Wireless, received June 28, 2017,
and attachments and bulk file exhibits
including:

1	I n d e x (Cont'd):		
2	EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
3	II-B-1	Bulk file exhibits:	
4		a. Technical report, 2/22/17	
5		b. Town of Coventry zoning	
6		regulations	
7		c. Town of Coventry Inland	
8		Wetlands and Watercourses	
9		Regulations	
10		d. Town of Coventry plan of	
11		conservation and development	
12	II-B-2	Applicant's affidavit of publication	14
13		dated July 10, 2017	
14	II-B-3	DEEP NDDB determination letter,	14
15		dated June 27, 2017	
16	II-B-4	Applicant's responses to Council	14
17		interrogatories, dated September 13, 2017	
18	II-B-5	Applicant's responses to Council	14
19		Interrogatory No. 5, dated	
20		September 21, 2017, and drive test map	
21	II-B-6	Applicant's sign posting affidavit,	14
22		dated October 9, 2017	
23	II-B-7	SHPO determination letter, dated	14
24		August 16, 2017	
25			